

As a voting American citizen who believes in non-partisan news and free network programming, I am compelled to register my complaint against Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. Sinclair Broadcast Group is now instructing their 62 local stations to pre-empt prime-time regular programming to air "Stolen Honor". This film features former POWs accusing Senator John Kerry of worsening their ordeal by prolonging the war. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This electioneering tactic is contrary to public interest and federal regulations "requiring broadcasters to provide equal time to major candidates in an election campaign". Station managers are being instructed to classify this blatant partisan smear piece as "news" to skirt political broadcasting regulations. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the company

bottom line and less
of what we need for
our democracy. Thank
you for hearing my
complaint.